

Rusk's TV Appearance Provokes Senate Panel

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 — By arranging a national television appearance for Secretary of State Dean Rusk, the Administration appears to have provoked another confrontation with the Senate over the Secretary's unwillingness to answer questions publicly before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Rusk's appearance on the "Meet the Press" television program Sunday, arranged at the initiative of the White House, has produced an indignant reaction among members of the committee.

Their annoyance over Mr. Rusk's willingness to answer questions by reporters but not by Senators was only compounded by the fact that on the same day Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach appeared on another television program, "Face the Nation."

Senator Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota, was so annoyed that he has reversed his position and will move tomorrow at an executive session of the Foreign Relations Committee that Mr. Rusk be invited to testify before the committee, in public, on Vietnam.

New Clash Developing Over His Discussion of Vietnam With the Press in Public

For the last year, Senator Mundt has generally opposed efforts by committee Democrats to force Mr. Rusk to testify publicly on Vietnam. The Senator said in an interview that he had now concluded that the Secretary should appear and that a Senate committee meeting was "a more legitimate forum" than "Meet the Press" for the Secretary of State to define American purposes in Vietnam.

In more pointed terms, Senator J. W. Fulbright, the committee chairman, said the Administration had apparently decided upon national television programs as a "substitute" for Congressional hearings where Administration officials might be subjected to "searching questions" on foreign policy.

Describing the television programs as "a controlled exhibition," Senator Fulbright told reporters they could "never be an adequate substitute" for Congressional hearings in which the Senators were not limited in their questioning by the in-

terruption of commercials or inhibited by a concern over asking embarrassing questions.

Since February, 1966, when Secretary of State Rusk testified before the Foreign Relations Committee, no Administration official has been willing to meet in open session with the committee to discuss policy on Vietnam.

During the last year, the committee sent repeated invitations to Mr. Rusk to testify on Vietnam in public session before the committee. Presumably on orders from the White House, Mr. Rusk declined the invitations, explaining that the war in Vietnam raised questions of foreign relations and military operations too "delicate" to be discussed in public session.

Senator Mundt said the reasons cited by Mr. Rusk "no longer seem valid" in view of his willingness to discuss Vietnam policy on a nationwide television program, along with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

"It is becoming important," he said, "to have a redefinition of our purposes in Vietnam and the proper forum for such a redefinition is before a Congressional committee, not a television program."